Advance of Ten lakh to each district for preparation of district plans	25.00
Total Development Grant component	569.66

Total Releases in 2007-08 till date (Rupees in crore)

RSVY	682.50
Capacity Building	34.30
Development Grant	569.66
TOTAL:	1286.46

Panchayati Raj in Jharkhand

1868. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which his Ministry is not taking sufficient interest to settle Panchayati Raj issue of Jharkhand in the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether Government realizes that Jharkhand villages are suffering because of non-elected Panchayat office bearers, who could have overseen the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and other development projects?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been pursuing the matter actively with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for an early hearing of the SLP against the order dated 2.9.2005 of the Jharkhand High Court which quashed certain provisions of the PESA Act, 1996. The interim application moved by the Ministry for an early hearing of the case was heard in the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India's Court on 23rd July, 2007. The Hon'ble Court was pleased to pass, the direction that the case would come up for regular hearing from the 3rd week of August 2007. As a firm date for hearing the case was not fixed, another special mention was made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Ministry on 2.11.2007 for an early hearing of the case. As a result of this, the case is likely to come up for regular hearing early in 2008. These efforts are intended to pave the way for early elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State of Jharkhand. This Minisry is taking vigorous steps to pursue and resolve the Panchayati Raj issue in Jharkhand through an early hearing in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(b) The Minisry of Panchayati Raj has released funds to the State of Jharkhand under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana during 2006-07 and 2007-08 which are; more than the funds released during the previous years. The Ministry has also rec^uested the State Government to fiilfill certain conditions to be eligible for the release of BRGF funds to the 13 districts of the State which have been identified for the purpose. The State of Jharkhand has reported that alternative mechanism has been put in place by the State Government for the implementation of NREGA and other develpment projects